[19th May 1954

Payment of wages to the workers of the Kaleswara Mills, Coimbatore.

* 930 Q.—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the management of the Kaleswara Mills of Coimbatore did not pay wages to the workers since January 1954 violating the Payment of Wages Act, 1936;

(b) whether the labourers have approached the Government for action under the Payment of Wages Act; and

(c) if so, what action the Government propose to take in the matter?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (a) Yes, Sir.

" (b) The Secretary of the Union has filed a group application to the Commissioner of Labour in Form ' B ' under section 15 of the Payment of Wages Act claiming the arrears of wages due to the workers of the Kaleswara Mills, Limited, Coimbatore, for the month of January 1954.

" (c) The application was received in the office of the Commissioner of Labour on 22nd February 1954 and was posted for hearing at Coimbatore on the 26th March 1954. On the day of hearing, the Secretary of the Union told the authority that the wages claimed had been paid on 23rd March 1954. The authority ordered the employer to pay costs to the Secretary and the employer did so."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" May I know whether the mill management has given any notice regarding the temporary closure of the mills and may I also know from the Labour Minister whether the management has paid the wages according to the Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Act?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I would like to have notice."

Fixation of the maximum number of Judges for the Madras High Court.

* 928 Q.—SRI M. KALYANASUNDRAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether the President has fixed the maximum number of Judges for the Madras High Court consequent on the separation of the Andhra High Court;

(b) if so, the maximum number fixed; and

(c) whether the Government have made any suggestions to the President in this connexion and if so, the number suggested by them?

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THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) & (*b*) Not yet.

" (*c*) Yes. The State Government's recommendations in this regard have been sent to the Government of India and as the matter is treated as secret it is regretted that particulars cannot be given."

Offices of the Andhra State located in Madras City.

* 931 *Q*.—SRI M. KALYANASUNDRAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) the offices of Heads of Departments of the Andhra State which continue to be located in Madras City; and

(*b*) whether the Government have ascertained from the Andhra Government when they are likely to be shifted to the Andhra State?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) All offices of the Heads of departments of the Andhra State except those of the Inspector-General of Police and Chief Engineer of the Public Works Department are still located in Madras City.

" (*b*) These Andhra offices in Madras City are located in private rented buildings, and they will be shifted to the Andhra area as and when the Government of Andhra are able to make suitable arrangements for locating these offices in the Andhra State. This is the arrangement agreed to at the time of the partition."

SRI M. KALYANASUNDRAM :—" மீதம் இருக்கக்கூடிய காரியாலயங்கள் ஆந்திரப் பிரதேசத்தில் முடிவாகப் போவதற்கு இன்னும் எவ்வளவு காலமாகும் என்பது பற்றி ஆந்திர சர்க்கார் ஏதாவது உறுதி மொழி கொடுத்திருக்கிறார்களா ?"

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" No, Sir. As soon as buildings are available in the Andhra State, I am sure they will shift. They are also interested in shifting their offices as early as possible."

Maintenance of the Sholatiram-Srimushnam road.

* 932 *Q*.—SRI S. SWAMIKANNU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Sholatiram-Srimushnam road is maintained by the Highways department or by the district board;

(*b*) the amount spent annually for its maintenance; and

(*c*) whether any special repairs were carried out to this road during the current year and if so, at what cost?

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI :—" (*a*) The road is maintained by the South Arcot District Board.

" (*b*) The average annual expenditure for the last four years is roughly Rs. 8,000.

" (*c*) No, Sir."